

THE SUMTER BANNER.

VOLUME II.

SUMTERVILLE, SOUTH-CAROLINA, MARCH 29, 1848.

NUMBER 22.

THE SUMTER BANNER:
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, BY
WILLIAM J. FRANCIS.

TERMS:

Two Dollars in advance, Two Dollars and Fifty-cents at the expiration of six months, or Three Dollars at the end of the year.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Proprietor.

Advertisements inserted at 75 cts. per square, (14 lines or less), for the first and half that sum for each subsequent insertion.

The number of insertions to be marked on all Advertisements or they will be published until ordered to be discontinued, and charged accordingly.

One Dollar per square for a single insertion. Quarterly and Monthly Advertisements will be charged the same as a single insertion, and semi-monthly the same as new ones.

All Obituary Notices exceeding six lines, and Communications recommending Candidates for public offices or trust—or puffing Exhibitions, will be charged as Advertisements.

All letters by mail must be paid to insure punctual attendance.

Extract of an Ordinance

Enacted by the Town Council of Sumterville:

For the information of all whom it may concern, the following extract is published, to-wit: "Sec. 8. That no slave whose owner resides without the limits of the town of Sumterville, shall be permitted to work therein, unless a written permit be first procured from the Marshal; for which, the sum of fifty cents, for common laborers, and the sum of one dollar and fifty cents for mechanics, shall be paid; and that no permit shall be for a longer time than three months; and if any slave shall neglect to procure a permit, such slave shall be imprisoned by the Marshal until released by Council; and in no case set at liberty, until the expenses of his or her arrest and imprisonment have been first paid.

Published by order of Council,
J. B. N. HAMMET,
Clerk of Council.
March 13th, 1848. 21

Miscellaneous.

CAUTION TO PLANTERS.

D. C. Newcomb, of Franklin Parish, La., writing to the N. O. Delta, says: A circum- stance occurred at my plantation a few days ago, which may be of some importance to the cotton planter. I had a large quantity of cotton seed to accumulate at my gin, which I had removed by hauling it on my corn ground.

When we got in about the centre of the pile we found it to be on fire, and had burnt the seed into a perfect coal, some two yards square. Had it not been so much smothered by the quantity of seed on the top, I have no doubt but it would have broke out and consumed my gin. We often hear of gin-houses being burnt, during the cotton picking season, which is always attributed to some incendiary. There is no doubt now in my mind that most of the gins that are burnt from unknown causes, proceed from spontaneous combustion as above stated.

MARRIED AND SINGLE.

Mr. Crosby had arrived at that time of life at which sensible men, while their habits assume a strictness, begin to indulge in a laxity of dress, and wear ample waistcoats and easy boots. His features and person betokened the man that knows what to eat, drink, and to avoid; who lives generously and at the same time takes care of himself, and who has been engaged in the cultivation of Epicurian philosophy for some 18 or 20 years. In his hale, ruddy countenance, you could read soundness and stamina, while the 'crow's feet' at the angles of his eyes, intimated to you that he was no chicken.

Mr. Crosby possessed a competence and a commission in her Majesty's corps of Gentlemen Pensioners; he lived in chambers and died at a club or coffee house. Thus far in the way of life had Mr. Crosby marched on without impediment; that is to say unmarried. But the period had now arrived at which it occurred to him that if he meant to marry at all, he had better do it. He did it. Five years afterwards he was seen in Cork street, Burlington Gardens, surveying wistfully the exterior of the Blue Pots, in predicament though not in appearance, resembling the Peri at the Gate of Paradise. It seemed as though he had been buried in wedlock, and now like some unquiet ghost had returned to visit the scenes of his former life. He had evidently exchanged a life of single blessedness for the reverse; and he thus related the story of his griefs, to an old acquaintance who accosted him.

"Take my advice, sir; never marry. You will ask how I came to do so? For the best reason, sir, that a man can have for committing any act foolish in itself. There was beauty, sir; there was temper, there was accomplishments, and some money. I was not rash, sir; I looked before I leapt—but, sir, I never should have taken the leap. I did not marry in haste, although I am repenting at leisure. I consulted with my friends who agreed that I was doing a good thing. I disobliterated none of my relatives, sir, except my nephew, who was his heir presumptive. I was not foolishly in love, either. The case was this; I was tired of living alone. I believed that my landlady cheated me. I was convinced they stole my sugar, I lost several shirts, and the rest usually came from the wash without buttons. My fire was frequently suffered to go out; and when I returned home wet in the feet, I had to air my own stockings. Now it

struck me that by marriage I would avoid these inconveniences. I had heard much of domestic management, and was induced to suppose that it would provide good dinners at a trifling expense. I expected, also, that I should find my boots better brushed, and the state of my wardrobe, in general better attended to than in that of celibacy. I anticipated a better ordered breakfast table than what I had been accustomed to. In short, sir, I looked for an increase of comforts, and if I had not, sir, I never should have changed my condition.

"Now, sir, my groceries are not only embezzled, but that by a monthly nurse, in addition to the servants, of whom I am under the necessity of keeping two; and my expenditure in that article has increased ten-fold. It is quite a fiction, sir, that matrimony is advantageous to shirts—mine are as buttonless as ever. The fire in my study is neglected for that in the nursery, and my slippers are invariably put out of the way. My wardrobe is left to regulate itself, the servants being occupied in dusting carpets and scrubbing floors; and once a week the house is turned upside down, my papers displaced, and my walking-stick and umbrella mislaid, under the pretence of putting them to rights. I dine, sir, one day on a leg of mutton, and for half the week afterwards on the same dish in various forms. I can now appreciate the virtue of promptitude in waiters. I know now what it is to get a chop cooked on ten minutes' notice—and let me tell you, sir, those are no such things as chops in wedlock. It is worse than useless to row up my servants. Instead of exciting their alacrity, it only elicits excuses from Mrs. Crosby. Then with respect to my breakfast. My newspaper is indispensable to the comfort of that meal. I can never read it in quiet; interrupted every moment, as I am, by some frivolous question or remark.

"The annoyance arising from my children, sir, are most intolerable. They are continually crying, and a box on the ear only makes them yell the louder—and my wife joins in the concert. The best of children are only less noisy and mischievous than the ordinary run. But all of them are subject to teething, whooping cough and measles, which render their existence a burden to all around them, except to their mothers and nurses, who I really believe, like the trouble which they thus occasion. But their wretched complaints are not only troublesome but expensive. I am never without a doctor in the house. Whilst I was a single man, sir, I never knew what medical attendance was. But women and children are always ailing. Not only are my butcher's, baker's, grocer's, and other bills augmenting, but their number is increased, by a doctor's bill—with nothing to show for it. And when I was married I found out not for the first time, what rates and taxes are.

"Between ourselves, sir, I don't mind telling you. I got about two hundred a year with Mrs. Crosby. But my additional expenditure so far exceeds that sum, that I am obliged to deny myself many enjoyments. I have given up my daily pint of wine, and I no longer smoke. Thus, sir, has matrimony not only decreased my comforts, but has deprived me of those that I already possessed. Instead of being able to take my stroll, to see the sights and learn the news of the day, I now find myself, resolving myself, as I go, into a committee of ways and means. Sir, this worry—this ceaseless wear and tear of the brain—deprives a walk of its legitimate and constitutional character. Sir, depend upon it, that it is mistake to marry for comfort. I find myself obliged to resign myself, and consult those of others. A single man, sir, only one to take care of; a married one has to take care of his wife and family. I made what every body considered a prudent match. Sir, there are no such things as prudent matches. I am as miserable, sir, as I could have been if I had married for love. So do you remain single, if you have a regard for Number One, for in matrimony you will find that you have to care for Number Two."

PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION.—A lawyer, retained in a case of assault and battery, was cross examining a witness in relation to the force of a blow struck.

"What kind of a blow was given?"
"A blow of the common kind."
"Describe the blow."
"I am not good at description."
"Show me what kind of a blow it was."
"I cannot."
"You must!"
"I won't!"

The lawyer appealed to the Court.

The Court told the witness that if the counsel insisted upon his showing what kind of a blow it was, he must do so.

"Do you insist upon it?" asked the witness.

"I do."

"Well, then since you compel me to show you, it was this kind of a blow!" at the same time suiting the action to the word, and knocking over the astonished disciple of Coke upon Littleton.

"There is no harm," says the Rev. Mr. Montgomery, "in smoking tobacco, except that it leads to drinking—drinking to intoxication—intoxication to bile—bile to indigestion—indigestion to consumption—consumption to death—that is all."

In the words of an affectionate wife to the agonizing partner of her bosom, we beg it:

"Don't stop to talk my dear, but go on with your dying."

THE "NIGGER HANGING."

BY "SOL."

"Yes," says another oh! woman, "hang-ins too good for em."

About the year eighteen hundred, and it matters not when, in a certain County in the State of Georgia, a most horrid murder was perpetrated by two negroes, upon the body of their mistress. Of course public excitement soon rose to the "54 40" of Oregon thermometer, and the *Allens* and *Aannegans* were not wanting in the neighbourhood to "give notice," of the alarming stories of many years standing, raked up for present use; how home made dirk knives had been found in boxes under ground, short swords concealed in hollow logs, plots diabolical and designs nefarious, entertained by certain "niggers" upon "Mr. Stitch-a-ones quarter," which borne upon the wings of the wind by the "Breezes," and other would be popular gabites, would go the rounds, and like Pats oyster, "the more they were chawed the larger they got," until the whole country was worked up into a state of fearful excitement, on the subject of 'nigger risins;' and no doubt this bold outrage and daring murder, was the harbinger of a brewing insurrection, and these two silly fools who perpetrated this deed, had been made 'cats paws' of, by the more cautious, and of course more guilty negroes, and they ought to meet with the severest penalty of the law, and their execution held 'in terrorum' over their secret leaders.

Many a sleepless night was spent in the immediate vicinity of the deed, by the ignorant and more fearful whites, who never did, nor never would have a 'nigger' about 'em. The nasty stinkin' things, they aint fit to be about a man's house no how; they'd just as leaf kill a body as to look at 'em.' And no doubt they often wished in their own hearts, that President Polk would give them notice, that the joint occupation of this country was terminated.

"But in course they'll hang them ar niggers what killed Mrs. Loft won't they?" enquires one. "It may give some o' the rest on 'em afright for awhile, 'O yes,' says another 'they've been tuckt up by the constable and karried afore 'Squire Strong, and I've hearn as how he's agwine to Get General Goodman to help him set on 'em.'"

Sure enough the negroes were duly 'set on' by a quorum of justices, and 'in course' found guilty of murder according to law, and sentenced to be hung on the 2d Friday in —

Great indeed was the excitement manifested by all classes, more particularly the non-slaveholders, between the trial and day of execution, to see these negroes hung, and the expected 'nigger hanging' was much talked about as a circus would have been, in the days of Pineville memory. Nothing could be said nor done, but what the 'nigger hanging,' in some shape or another, was brought upon the tapis, and every body was going, and even seemed to anticipate much pleasure in the sight.

"How ar you to day Bob?"
"I'm well, how is it yourself, I give you thanks?"

"O, sorter so so. You gwine to the nigger hangin' Bob?"

"O yes, I would'n't miss it for a quarter."

"Nor I nuther, I'd'ruther see it than to see the circus!"

Even the old women seemed delighted at the idea of having an opportunity, to see these poor devils suffer.

"Yes I intend to go," says one, "I know I can look at 'em hang as unconcerned as I could at an old sheep killin' dog, or a suck nig son of a hound." The speaker growing more angry, the more she talked about it, until she seemed mad enough to kill every dog on the plantation, for fear they might turn out to sucking her eggs.

"Yes," says another, 'hangins too good for 'em, they ought to be burnt alive till they was dead, and then cut up by the very doctors themselves, and made objects (subjects) on.'

In due time the eventful Friday arrived and ere the sun was three hours high, the calm and quiet atmosphere of a summer morning in the silent forest, where the deed was committed, and in which the gallows was erected, began to be agitated by the hum of human voices; and the neighing of horses, braying of donkeys, lowing of oxen, and the rattling of the wheels and chains of the various vehicles made the welkin ring. Spectators of all sizes and colours 'from snowy white to sooty,' began to collect upon the spot thick and fast from every direction; some in carriages, some in wagons and carts, but by far the greater portion on natures colts.

Soon Riley Hinton the constable and chief executioner made his appearance with the culprits, guarded by two companies of militia, armed and equipped as the law directs, and commanded by their respective Captains; the whole division under the command of Riley himself, who was armed 'cap-a-pie' with a horseman's broad sword, two pistols and a dirk, although the negroes like Lazarus when he was brought forth, were bound 'hand and foot,' and hauled to the place of execution on a cart, and every man, woman and child in ten miles of the place anxious for their execution.

Every thing being made ready for the last act of the drama as quick as possible, the cart was slowly driven under the gallows; and the knots of the ropes, which were already around the necks of the cul-

prits, were properly adjusted, and the loose end thrown over the beam. Many were the anxious eyes and listening ears turned toward the spot from every possible direction, from above not excepted; for notwithstanding, the constable had taken the precaution to form a large ring round the gallows, and placed his guard upon it, as well to give all an opportunity to see, as to prevent any attempt at a rescue; yet so great was the crowd that it was impossible for one half to see, much less to hear what was going on, and to aid this defect in the nature of things, the negro spectators, not considering themselves included among the number to be benefited by the formation of the ring, made the trees round about the gallows, seem as a kind of statue of *Jeophails* to them, by climbing up in them, some ten, some fifteen and even twenty feet high, that they too might see, add probably hear the last words of their dying fellow servants; it having previously been announced that the culprits would have an opportunity of confessing their guilt, and saying whatever else it might behoove them to say, on such a solemn occasion.

After they had made an end of speaking, in which they confessed their guilt, and concluded with a warning exhortation to their fellow servants, and a prayer for their own souls &c., the constable descended from the cart, and a profound and deathlike silence now pervaded the whole assembly. Not a sound was heard save the commingling din of the distant horses and mules, stamping at the flies, and the rattling of their harness. The sound of the death tap of the peg, which suspended the victims in the air, broke for a moment the fearful silence, and all was still again. Even the air itself, seemed unwilling to disturb the solemn stillness of the scene, which continued for about two minutes, during which time the death struggles of the negroes were the only motions in view.

Suddenly an old man in the crowd, overcome by the heat, together with the solemnity and stillness of the scene, fainted, as he sat in his wagon, and fell backwards, which frightened the horses, and unable to run they commenced kicking. This attracted the attention of those in the immediate vicinity, who under the impulse of the moment rushed to the old mans assistance; and it so happened that just at this moment, a sudden gust of wind shook the leaves above the heads of the dying negroes, which with the rattling of the chains on the kicking horses, coming simultaneously upon the ears of the larger portion of the crowd who could not see the cause of the disturbance, created at first a panic among the negroes, and a moving among the whites, which as quick as thought pervaded the whole congregation, from centre to circumference, and cries of 'mad dog,' 'insurrection,' 'niggers a risin', 'when in fact they were falling like ripe fruit in a storm, from the trees in every direction, served of course, to increase the panic, and extend it among the fearful and unthinking whites; and the fact that the negroes literally fell, *pel mel* out of the trees, where it was presumed they could see what was the matter for their elevated positions tended to strengthen the belief that something uncommon and alarming had taken place. And such a scene of confusion as hereupon ensued, can be much better imagined than described.

The negroes and whites seemed suddenly charged with positive electricity, and in strict obedience to the laws of nature, in such cases, mutually separated from each other as fast as their feet could carry them. The 'creams of woman, crying of children, and running of men, women and children, terrified the horses, donkeys and oxen, and they commenced kicking and running in every direction, and as the circumference of the crowd increased by the repulsive movements of the whites and blacks, the confusion became more dangerous; for the horses were now dashing about in various directions, and men, women and children, black and white were rushing to and fro against each other, to keep out of the way of the animals.

"The guard! the guard!" exclaimed some affrighted voice.

"Where's the guard?"

But alas, neither constable, magistrate nor guard, could be seen in their proper places. Nor has it to this day been satisfactorily ascertained what did become of the constable and his equipage, whether he threw down his sword and betook himself to inglorious flight, or looked calmly and undismayed upon the scene of confusion, until an opportunity offered for him to collect his scattered guards and guns, the last of which were lying in abundant profusion, about where the former ought to have been, is still enveloped in the mist of uncertainty. It is, however currently reported that he did run, but whether it was merely for the purpose of heading his flying guard, or because, being a popular man he preferred to act upon the popular motto, 'When in Rome do as Rome does,' and made quite an active use of his legs, rumor saith not; but it rather darkly insinuated, that the broad sword which served as so important an appendage to his person on that eventful day, has never been nor heard of since.

Be this as it may, Riley can lay the flattering unction to his soul, that he was not alone in his flight on that occasion; for it is a matter of well established history, that one of the guard arrived at his house, about three miles distant, in less

than twenty minutes after the hour, at which the negroes were to be hung, without either gun, hat, or shoes, and told his wife the 'niggers had riz,' and he was killed by a shot in the mouth, which was actually bleeding copiously from a snag he had received while running through woods.

But notwithstanding the general panic which prevailed, there were some, to their honor be it said, who were not at all alarmed. Two medical students who belonged to the guard, and had determined to wait until the negroes were dead, that they might get them and 'make objects on 'em,' were frank enough to admit, that although they had seen many dead negroes, but they never heard dead negroes make such a 'quai, noise before, and for fear something might happen, not at all frightened however, but being cautious young men, they threw down their guns and concealed themselves behind a tree, where the dying negroes could not see them.

Another medical student, who had gone all the way from the 'village' 15 miles, not to see the negroes hung, but that he might 'pro dono scientia,' and his own information in cutting up the bodies of the culprits in his flight from the scene, was seized round the waist by a lady, who begged him to take care of her, but in the honest simplicity of his nature, he exclaimed, 'By G—d madam every man for himself, and woman too.'

It is also said of a youth diminutive size, who had gone from an adjoining District some 30 miles, that he had ensconced himself behind a tree, where a woman of herculean strength seized him by the arm and told him that was her tree, and giving him a sling threw him some ten feet into a tree, where he concluded he was pretty well concealed, and lay there until the confusion was over, and when he got up was the nearest man to the negroes, and making a virtue of necessity he declared he was not at all frightened and had no idea of running at all.

Even one of the magistrates, who was regarded as a big man in the neighborhood, said, that in taking a hasty view of the whole scene before him, it occurred to him that it might be important that some one should, hereafter give a correct description of all that transpired, and to enable him to do so, notwithstanding his age and corporeity, he climbed up a tree with considerable agility.

The local consequences of this extraordinary 'nigger hangin' were rather beneficial than otherwise; for the year previous to it the owner of the land made such a bad cotton crop, that he spoke of removing to the west; but in gathering up the scattered fragments of clothing, hats, shoes, etc., lost amid the confusion, he picked up a considerable quantity of cotton in small bales, supposed to have been been lost in the *bustle* and took the name of "lost bustles," which in so great a measure supplied the deficiency of his cotton crop, that he concluded to remain, and I am informed is doing well.

Strange to say! out of some 5 or 6 thousand souls, who were present on that memorable occasion, not more than 15 or 20 have ever been seen who were at the 'nigger hangin'." "Well Bob, were you at the 'nigger hangin'." "Oh no they say every body got scared and run off, and I know I would'n't have got scared." "Were you there?" "No."

Laurens Herald.

THE BROKEN BRIDGE.—An Irish nobleman, on a journey was informed that his way lay over a ruined bridge, which he would be obliged to pass at night. He ordered his postillion to call him when they reached the dangerous place, then wrapping himself up in his cloak went to sleep. When they reached the bridge the postillion called but as his master did not awake, he drove on, and passed safely over. Some time after, the traveller awoke, and called out.

"How is this, John, have you passed the broken bridge?"

"Yes, your honor."

"Why did you not wake me, as I ordered you to do?"

"I did not like to disturb your honor."

"Upon my honor, if we had all fallen into the water and been drowned, I would have put a bullet through your head."

"By all the martyrs, if you had I would have left your service the next minute if I had starved."

GEN. LEE AND DR. CUTTING.—John B Cutting was a surgeon in the Army of the Revolution, and coming to Philadelphia, lodged in a house where Gen. Lee was then boarding. The Doctor was a personable man, and not indifferent to dress. The General suddenly entering the sitting-room found the Doctor before the glass, carefully adjusting his cravat.

"Cutting," says Lee, 'you must be the happiest man in creation.'

The former turned round with a smile of self-complacency.—'And why, General?' said he.

'Why,' replied Lee, 'because you are in love with yourself, and have not a rival on earth.'

A black man, in Jamaica, some time ago was taken up by his master for buying grog, knowing them to be stolen. He was tried, found guilty, and sentence passed upon him. The judge pronounced—"Take and flog that black rascal!" The prisoner begged to be heard, which was granted. Says he, "If white man buy stolen goods, you will order white rascal a flog!" "Yes, to be sure," said the judge. "Dare is my massa; he buy stolen goods; he know I was taken when he bought me; hold um fast."